

06/25/13

From:

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Subject: Comments to Petition For Rule Making, RM-11699: §97.113, which currently prohibits “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.”

To Whom it may concern:

Having worked numerous ARES/RACES and Red Cross emergencies in the past, there have been many occasions where the encryption of personal or logistical data would have been highly preferable to open communications when dealing with medical, personal and law enforcement support communications, for reasons of privacy and law enforcement security.

I strongly support the encryption of vital emergency data in a manner where only those directly involved in such communications, in support of civil emergencies, are able to decrypt such communications. At the current time, the only semi-closed communications medium we have is the use of VHF and UHF packet, which can still be easily intercepted by third parties who do not have any tangible, legal, interest in the information being transmitted.

As this will only be used in cases of natural disasters, or other disruptions of normal communications by such events as civil unrest or disorders, training and exercise scenarios, and will be overseen by local and Federal agencies, as required, involved in these types of information exchanges, I believe that the tangible benefits for security of information far outweigh any possible disadvantages one is likely to incur in the use of encryption protocols during emergency communications.

Sincerely,
Joanne Hook
N6UNT/AE